

# **EXHIBIT A**

COPY OF FILING

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF ONEIDA

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ROBERT M. CIFONELLI,

Plaintiff,

-against-

NEW YORK STATE TECHNOLOGY  
ENTERPRISE CORPORATION; EMPLOYEE  
NETWORK, INC. d/b/a "eni"; and JOHN DOE(S) and  
JANE DOE(S),

Defendants.

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**SUMMONS**

Plaintiff designates  
Oneida County as the  
place of trial.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on Plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service; or within thirty (30) days after service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

The basis of the venue designated is the residence of the Plaintiff. Plaintiff resides at 9381 Cosmo Court, Sauquoit, New York 13456.

Dated: June 24, 2011  
at Rome, New York

BOSMAN LAW FIRM, L.L.C.  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

2011403204

Clerk LG



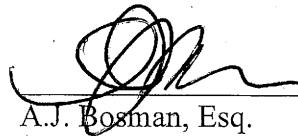
**CA2011-001431**

06/24/2011

Pages 1

CIVIL INDEX NUMBER

Sandra J. DePerno, Oneida County Clerk



A.J. Bosman, Esq.

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Attorney for Plaintiff

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Rome, New York 13440

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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF ONEIDA

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ROBERT M. CIFONELLI,

Plaintiff,

**COMPLAINT**

-against-

NEW YORK STATE TECHNOLOGY  
ENTERPRISE CORPORATION; EMPLOYEE  
NETWORK, INC. d/b/a "eni"; and JOHN DOE(S) and  
JANE DOE(S),

Defendants.

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Plaintiff Robert M. Cifonelli, by and through his attorneys, Bosman Law Firm, L.L.C. (A.J. Bosman, Esq.) and Norman P. Deep, Esq., for his Complaint against Defendants, New York State Technology Enterprise Corporation, Employee Network, Inc. d/b/a "eni", and John Doe(s) and Jane Doe(s), alleges as follows:

1. Plaintiff Robert M. Cifonelli is a natural person who resides in the County of Oneida, State of New York. At all times relevant hereto, he was an employee of Defendant New York State Technology Enterprise Corporation ("NYSTEC" or "Defendant employer").
2. Defendant NYSTEC is a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York and maintains a principal place of business in Rome, New York in the County of Oneida. At all times relevant hereto, NYSTEC was the employer of the Plaintiff.
3. Upon information and belief, Defendant NYSTEC is an "employer" as that term is defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101, et seq. ("ADA") and the

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Clerk LG



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Human Rights Law of the State of New York, N.Y. Exec. Law §§ 290, et seq (“Human Rights Law”).

4. Defendant Employee Network, Inc. d/b/a “eni” (“eni”) is a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York and maintains a principal place of business in Vestal, New York in the County of Broome. Upon information and belief, Defendant eni is in the business of providing psychological therapy to employees who participate in “Employers’ Assistance plans” or similar programs.

5. Plaintiff was employed by Defendant employer for almost 12 years as an Engineer. He was unlawfully terminated on or about January 25, 2010 because of his disabilities and/or requests for reasonable accommodation. Plaintiff suffers from the following qualifying disabilities: general anxiety disorder, panic disorder without agoraphobia, and social phobia. If reasonably accommodated, these disabilities would not have prevented him from competently continuing to perform his job duties for the Defendant employer.

6. At the time of his dismissal, he was not the subject of any form of work-related progressive discipline except for a written letter given to him by management dated September 22, 2009. In addition, all of Plaintiff’s annual performance appraisals and testimonials demonstrated that he was an asset to the company, fully capable of performing his job assignments.

7. The said letter of September 22, 2009 focused on travel being an “essential function” of the Plaintiff’s job duties. That was and is untrue inasmuch as travel was not an “essential function” to fulfill Plaintiff’s job duties. Further, Defendant employer could have accommodated the Plaintiff’s disabilities as the only aspect of his employment which required an accommodation was

to not have Plaintiff travel long distances. The Defendant employer's President, Michael Donovan and the head of human resources, Kelly Sullivan insisted that the Defendant could not accommodate Plaintiff's disabilities.

8. Prior to Plaintiff's dismissal, his ability to perform his engineering duties was not an issue. The Defendant refused to consider technological means of avoiding extensive travel through the use of tools available through the Internet and other forms of modern communication.

9. Upon information and belief, providing Plaintiff with accommodation would not have been economically detrimental to NYSTEC's operations. Defendant employer determined that it would be easier to terminate Plaintiff's employment rather than consider viable options which would have enabled him to continue performing his job duties.

10. In addition, the Defendant employer attempted to unlawfully subvert the requirement of providing a reasonable accommodation under the ADA and Human Rights Law by enlisting the services of Defendant eni and mandating he undergo therapy in an "Employee Assistance Program" as provided by eni. Defendants unlawfully interfered with Plaintiff's medical care and treatment in that such therapy was not recommended nor authorized by a medical professional and constituted an unwarranted invasion of privacy. The law does not require Plaintiff undergo therapy before he may seek or secure a reasonable accommodation.

11. Upon information and belief, the forced participation in therapy is unlawful under the ADA and the Human Rights Law. Upon information and belief, Defendant eni's involvement in such forced therapy is an unlawful activity and renders it liable as an "aider or abetter" of discrimination under the Human Rights Law.

12. Plaintiff has been caused to suffer harm, including but not limited to, extreme anxiety, embarrassment, physical distress, humiliation, degradation, loss of pay, loss of benefits, loss of enjoyment of life, harm to reputation and good name, anger, fear and nervousness.

13. On or about June 14, 2010, Plaintiff filed a charge of discrimination with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"). Plaintiff's EEOC complaint was cross filed with the New York State Division of Human Rights pursuant to a work-share agreement enjoyed by the two agencies.

14. On or about March 28, 2011, the EEOC issued a Notice of Right to Sue letter to Plaintiff.

15. Plaintiff has exhausted his administrative remedies.

**AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION  
UNDER THE ADA AGAINST NYSTEC**

16. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraph 1 through 15 above.

17. The actions and/or omissions of Defendant employer as set forth above constitute a violation of Plaintiff's rights under the ADA.

18. Plaintiff was injured and harmed as a result of said unlawful actions and/or omissions and is entitled to compensation therefor.

**AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION  
UNDER THE HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AGAINST NYSTEC**

19. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraph 1 through 18 above.

20. The actions and/or omissions of Defendant employer as set forth above constitute a

violation of Plaintiff's rights under the Human Rights Law.

21. Plaintiff was injured and harmed as a result of said unlawful actions and/or omissions and is entitled to compensation therefor.

**AS AND FOR A THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION  
UNDER THE HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AGAINST eni**

22. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraph 1 through 21 above.

23. The actions and/or omissions of Defendant eni as set forth above constitute "aiding and abetting" activity proscribed under the Human Rights Law and a violation thereof.

24. Plaintiff was injured and harmed as a result of said unlawful actions and/or omissions and is entitled to compensation therefor.

**AS AND FOR A FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION  
FOR NEGLIGENCE AGAINST eni**

25. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraph 1 through 24 above.

26. Defendant eni owed a duty of care to Plaintiff as a provider of psychological "therapy".

27. Defendant eni breached that duty of care in recommending "mandated" therapy when such "mandated" therapy was against the psychological health and well being of the Plaintiff and outside the standard of care.

28. Defendant eni also breached the duty of care in communicating to Plaintiff's employer that he was "unwilling" to continue treatment and "non-compliant".



29. The said breach of duty was the proximate cause of damages as said breach caused and/or contributed to the employer's decision to terminate the Plaintiff's employment.

30. Plaintiff was injured and harmed as a result of Defendant eni's negligence and is entitled to compensation therefor.

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff Robert M. Cifonelli respectfully requests judgment against the Defendants, Defendants, New York State Technology Enterprise Corporation, Employee Network, Inc. d/b/a "eni", and John Doe(s) and Jane Doe(s), jointly and severally, as follows:

- a. an Order of Reinstatement restoring Plaintiff to his position as an Engineer;
- b. an Order enjoining the Defendants from further violating Plaintiff's rights;
- c. compensatory damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
- d. punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
- e. reasonable attorneys' fees and costs as provided by the ADA;
- f. declaratory relief finding each Defendant violated Plaintiff's rights;
- g. for the First, Second, and Third Causes of Action, granting the following injunctive relief:
  1. Restraining the Defendants from engaging in further discriminatory treatment;
  2. Require the Defendants to review and correct all discriminatory treatment and conduct practiced by Defendant employer and its "aider and abetter", Defendant eni;
  3. Provide equal opportunities, terms, benefits, and pay to all employees of the Defendant employer;
  4. Mandate training and educational programs for employees about retaliation and discrimination;

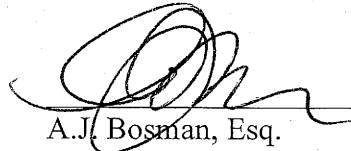
5. Require annual reports demonstrating efforts and success at compliance in providing a discrimination free workplace; and

6. Require the investigation and if appropriate, discipline of employees who have violated rights of disabled employee; and

h. such other and further relief the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: June 24, 2011  
at Rome, New York

BOSMAN LAW FIRM, L.L.C.  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A.J. Bosman', is written over a horizontal line.

A.J. Bosman, Esq.  
Office and Post Office Address  
6599 Martin Street  
Rome, New York 13440  
Telephone: (315) 336-9130

NORMAN P. DEEP, ESQ.  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
Office and Post Office Address  
6599 Martin Street  
Rome, New York 13440  
Telephone: (315) 725-2008

# **EXHIBIT B**

# AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

ONEIDA COUNTY

ATTORNEY(S): A J Bosman Esq. : Ph: 336-9130

ADDRESS: 6599 Martin Street Rome NY 13440 File No.:

Index #: CA2011-001431

Date Filed: June 24, 2011

Court Date:

**Robert M. Cifonelli**

VS.

**New York State Technology Enterprise Corporation, et al**

Plaintiff(s)/Petitioner(s)

STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF ONEIDA, SS.:

Joseph Dean Grabski, being duly sworn deposes and says:

Deponent is not a party herein, is over 18 years of age and resides in New York .

On September 1, 2011 at 9:47am,  
at 500 Avery Lane, Suite A Rome NY 13441, deponent served the within

Summons and Complaint

Defendant(s)/Respondent(s)

on: New York State Technology Enterprise Corporation, Defendant therein named,  
and upon which the Index No. and the date of filing were clearly visible on said documents listed above.

#1 INDIVIDUAL ☐ By delivering a true copy of each to said recipient personally; deponent knew the person served to be the person described as said person therein.

#2 CORPORATION By delivering to and leaving with Michele Salisbury said individual to be  
LLC / LLP ☒ Chief Financial Officer who specifically stated he/she was  
authorized to accept service on behalf of the Corporation/Government Agency/Entity.

#3 SUITABLE AGE PERSON ☐ By delivering a true copy of each to \_\_\_\_\_ a person of suitable age and discretion.  
Said premises is recipient's [ ] actual place of business [ ] dwelling house (usual place of abode) within the state.

#4 AFFIXING TO DOOR ☐ By affixing a true copy of each to the door of said premises, which is recipient's: [ ] actual place of business  
[ ] dwelling house (place of abode) within the state.

#5 MAIL COPY ☐ On \_\_\_\_\_, deponent completed service by depositing a true copy of each document  
to the above address in a 1st Class postpaid properly addressed envelope marked "Personal and Confidential" in  
an official depository under the exclusive care and custody of the United States Post Office.  
Certified Mail No. \_\_\_\_\_

Deponent was unable, with due diligence to find recipient or a person of suitable age and discretion, having called  
thereat on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
Address confirmed by \_\_\_\_\_

#6 DESCRIPTION ☒ A description of the Defendant, or other person served, or spoken to on behalf of the Defendant is as follows:  
Sex: Female Color of skin: White Color of hair: Brown Age: 47 Height: 5'6"  
(use with #1, 2 or 3) Weight: 136 Other Features: glasses

#7 WIT. FEES ☐ the authorized witness fee and / or traveling expenses were paid (tendered) to the recipient.

#8 MILITARYSRVC ☐ Deponent asked person spoken to whether the recipient was presently in military service of the United States Government or of the  
State of New York and was informed that recipient was not.

#9 OTHER ☐

Sworn to before me on this 1 day of September, 2011

JAMES C. DOOLITTLE, JR.  
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of New York  
No. 01D06100321, Appointed in Oneida  
My Commission Expires October 14, 2011

BETTE A NOBLES  
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of New York  
No. 01NO6181412, Oneida County  
Term Expires January 28, 2012

Process Server, Please Sign  
Joseph Dean Grabski  
WorkorderNumber 1110583

Cust.File #

LEGALWORKS \* INTEGRITY - DILIGENCE - TIMELINESS - PREMIER SERVICE YOU CAN COUNT ON \* 315.737.9800

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# EXHIBIT C



# **EXHIBIT D**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In the Matter of a Proceeding Pursuant to Article 78  
of the Civil Practice Law and Rules

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ROBERT M. CIFONELLI,

Plaintiff,

-against-

**NOTICE OF REMOVAL**

**Civil Case No. 6:11-CV-1062 (MAD/AT)**

NEW YORK STATE TECHNOLOGY  
ENTERPRISE CORPORATION; EMPLOYEE  
NETWORK, INC. d/b/a "eni"; and JOHN DOE(S) and  
JANE DOE(S),

Defendants.

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**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**, that the defendant, New York State Technology Enterprise Corporation, by and through its attorneys, Carter, Conboy, Case, Blackmore, Maloney & Laird, P.C., pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1441 and 1446, hereby removes the pending action from the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Oneida, to the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York.

1. The basis for removal is that the Complaint asserts claims for, *inter alia*, alleged violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12101, thereby presenting a federal question and confirming jurisdiction to the United States Court for the Northern District of New York. A copy of the plaintiff's Summons and Complaint is attached hereto as Exhibit "A".



2. Upon information and belief the action was commenced against the moving defendant in the Supreme Court, State of New York, County of Oneida.
3. The moving defendant was served on or about September 1, 2011.
4. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331 and 28 U.S.C. §1441(b).

**WHEREFORE**, notice is hereby given that defendant, New York State Technology Enterprise Corporation, removes this action to the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1441 and 1446.

DATED: September 7, 2011

CARTER, CONBOY, CASE, BLACKMORE,  
MALONEY & LAIRD, P.C.

By: 

LUKE C. DAVIGNON

Bar Roll No.: 514939

Attorneys for Defendant, New York State  
Technology Enterprise Corporation

Office and P.O. Address

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Albany, NY 12211-2362

Phone: (518) 465-3484

E-Mail: ldavignon@carterconboy.com

TO: BOSMAN LAW FIRM, LLC  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
6599 Martin Street  
Rome, NY 13440

NORMAN P. DEEP, ESQ.  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
6599 Martin Street  
Rome, NY 13440

EMPLOYEE NETWORK, INC.  
1040 Vestal Parkway E, #1  
Vestal, NY 13850-2354